

Inquiries of the Ministry

REQUEST FOR DATE OF NEXT SESSION

Mr. Fournier (Hull): It was necessary to get the agreement of 262 members as to what system we would instal.

An hon. Member: It was given last year.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Mr. Speaker went to Britain and to Rome. A former Speaker went to Havana and to Spain or some other country.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

An hon. Member: What about Peru?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): They both came back with their personal ideas. Then we had a committee of the house sitting with Mr. Speaker, and that committee decided that we should instal here a system similar to that in Britain.

Mr. Coldwell: That is right.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I suppose that the Tannoy company of Britain have patents on their equipment. We have to deal directly with them. I cannot see any other firm in Canada that actually has a similar system.

Mr. Fleming: Speak up, please.

Some hon. Members: Louder.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Being in the hands of the company which could instal that system, we have to come to some agreement, and we have not come to that agreement. I have outlined what we thought we would do for the House of Commons, namely have this company instal this system, maintain it in a state of repair and operate it, and then we would sign a lease with this company for some years and give it a trial. We have not reached that stage, but you may rest assured that after I have taken a few days' rest during New Year's time I will personally attend to this matter.

Mr. Coldwell: Do I understand that a firm offer has been made by the Minister of Public Works to the British company—

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Coldwell:—that you will be prepared to enter into an agreement of this description provided satisfactory financial arrangements could be made?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): If my memory serves me correctly we tabled correspondence with the company at the request of the hon. member and in that correspondence we were discussing the way we could proceed with the installation of this system. We will in the future have this system installed.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. I am sure it would be of great assistance to hon. members in making their future plans if they could know approximately when the government expect us to come back in session. Has the Prime Minister anything to say about that matter at this time?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I cannot make any forecast at this time as to the date when parliament will reconvene for another session. We shall have to dispose of this one first. As suggested by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier), there are quite a number of matters that have not been attended to because of the pressure upon the cabinet of sessional business. They will have to be dealt with between the sessions, and I hope they can be dealt with both expeditiously and efficiently.

Mr. Graydon: I hope we will not have to wait until the loud speakers are installed.

REQUEST FOR ENGLISH "HANSARD" INDEX

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jean François Pouliot (Temiscouata): Referring to a recent tribute by the member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) to the persons who prepared the English index of *Hansard* for the first session of 1950 and the first session of 1951 as well as this session, is it true that the three indexes will be ready and available to the members one week after prorogation?

Mr. Speaker: It is not the custom of Mr. Speaker to answer questions from the floor of the house. All I can say at this time is that the matter is receiving the careful attention of the officials of the house, and I am informed progress is being made. I shall be pleased to give the hon. member for Temiscouata any further information which I have on this matter if he will be kind enough to see me in my chamber.

Mr. Pouliot: Thank you, but the progress is not to that extent, if my understanding is correct.

FEED GRAIN

PRICE OF BARLEY FEED

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon): I should like to direct a question to the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Why is the western livestock producer